

States from harm caused by invasive species. The bill, entitled the "Nonnative Wildlife Invasion Prevention Act," constitutes a proactive approach to combating invasive wildlife species by preventing their entry at the border.

Currently there is no federal law prohibiting the importation of invasive species into the United States. Yet, nonnative plants and animals are known by scientists to have been introduced into ecosystems in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the territories. Invasive, nonnative species can harm the economy, human health, and the health of other animal species. Such harm ranges, for example, from depreciating farmland property values to the spreading of disease and loss of irrigation water. Additionally, collapse of buildings; competition with native animals; sport, game, and endangered species losses; habitat alteration; and other ecosystem disturbances; have resulted from the introduction of invasive species.

Scientists and economists estimate the cost of damages caused by invasive species in the United States to amount to over \$123 billion annually. The risks associated with the introduction and establishment of invasive species, and the costs of mitigation, will continue to rise concomitantly with the expansion of trade and increased speed and frequency of travel. The sheer volume of cargo shipped and exchanged worldwide continues to increase, and many communities across the United States are experiencing growth in tourism and in their visitor industries. These factors are reason alone to develop protocols and a system for assessing the risk of all nonnative wildlife species that could be imported or introduced into the United States.

Preventing the introduction of invasive species is a significant challenge and priority for many communities across the country, including my district, Guam. Invasive species, for example, threaten the biodiversity and the ecology of the Florida Everglades, the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, and the Great Lakes, among other national environmental treasures in our country. On Guam, the brown tree snake has caused the extirpation of many native, endemic forest birds and lizards. The coqui tree frog and the coconut rhinoceros beetle are the latest species to have entered Guam. Although the brown tree snake was accidentally introduced through cargo shipments several decades ago, intentional introduction of invasive species today is something that can and should be controlled. The bill introduced today would protect citizens, the economy, and the environment from imported wildlife species that have the known potential to and that would likely harm our interests in the United States.

Absent a comprehensive federal law addressing the importation of nonnative species, the only protection provided by the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981. This law authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to designate wildlife species considered "injurious" to humans and prohibit importation of such species into the country. The process, however, to designate a species as injurious can take four years on average, at which point in most cases harm has already been caused and realized.

The Nonnative Wildlife Invasion Prevention Act authorizes the establishment by regulation of a risk assessment process to control the importation of wildlife species. The bill adopts

a preventative approach by requiring the Secretary of the Interior to develop with public notice and public input a "green list" of species allowed to be imported and a "black list" preventing invasive species from entering the country. Prior to approving a species to be imported, the Secretary must evaluate its potential risk to humans, other animal species, and environmental health. Any imports of "black list" species will be subject to penalties under the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981. The Secretary, however, may permit importation of an animal of such other prohibited species for educational, scientific research, or accredited zoological or aquarium display purposes. Finally, import fees will be collected to cover the costs of the risk assessment process.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to advance this legislation and to strengthen the abilities of the federal government to more effectively manage and prevent the introduction and establishment of nonnative wildlife species.

#### HONORING CAROL ROEVER

#### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Carol Roever of St. Joseph, Missouri. Carol is active in the community through work and in her spare time and she has been chosen to receive the YWCA Woman of Excellence Award for Women in the Workplace.

As an Associate Professor at MWSU, Carol Roever sets high expectations for her students and supports them to achieve these goals. Her students have won awards in national contests and have been selected to present their research at international conferences in the U.S., Finland, Denmark, Germany and Italy. Developing a course to introduce students to international business, Carol has taken more than 135 students to seven countries to participate in business seminars, learn from corporate leaders, and experience cultural differences.

Beyond the classroom, Carol has directed the Department of Business internship program for a number of years, placing over 500 students in internships across the U.S. In addition, over the last seven years, Carol has presented 13 papers at regional, national and international conferences. She recently spent a semester as a visiting professor at Yeditepe University in Istanbul, Turkey. In 2006, she was selected as Chairperson for the Department of Business at MWSU. Her dedication to her students and her outstanding teaching have earned her national recognition from professional organizations. She has also received awards from MWSU that acknowledge the quality and significance of her work. Carol is an active volunteer in St. Joseph, having served on Heartland Health boards for more than 12 years, with two years as Medical Center Board President. This year she presented three communication workshops for women in the YWCA shelter.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Carol Roever. She has made an amazing impact on countless individuals in the community. I am honored to represent her in the United States Congress.

#### IRAN AND NUCLEAR WEAPONS

#### HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, it's clear that those leading the government of Iran are not friends of the United States or of our friends, including Israel. It would be folly to think otherwise.

So, we are right to be concerned about the possibility that Iran could obtain nuclear weapons, and we should take seriously the report from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) that the possibility of their developing them is "a matter of serious concern."

But I think a recent editorial in the Colorado Springs Gazette was right to remind us that while Iran's actions "cannot help but arouse suspicion . . . This is hardly a reason to resume rattling sabers, as some Americans seem to desire" and that in fact "it may be a reason to take steps toward more direct talks with the theocratic regime."

Because I think its points deserve consideration, I am attaching the complete editorial for the information of our colleagues:

[From the Gazette, Colorado Springs, June 5, 2008]

#### AN OPENING FOR IRAN TALKS?

The latest report from the International Atomic Energy Agency indicates that while there is still no solid evidence that Iran is actively developing nuclear weapons, the possibility is still "a matter of serious concern." Iran is still playing cat-and-mouse with the IAEA in ways that cannot help but arouse suspicion.

This is hardly a reason to resume rattling sabers, as some Americans seem to desire. Indeed, it may be a reason to take steps toward more direct talks with the theocratic regime.

The fact that a rival to loose-lipped Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad was overwhelmingly elected as speaker of the Iranian parliament suggests that it might be a good time to take preliminary steps toward resuming the official contact between Iran and the United States. Ali Larijani, who has been critical of Ahmadinejad because of persistent inflation and other economic problems, won by a vote of 323-31.

It is unthinkable that Larijani rolled up this majority without backing from Iran's supreme religious leader, Ayatollah Khamenei, and the mullahs who really run the country. Most analysts interpret his victory as a signal that the mullahs are rethinking their support of Ahmadinejad.

If the United States is to remain involved in the region, it is wise to recognize that while Iran poses no direct threat to the United States, it is an important regional power. In such situations, as the Godfather understood, it is important to keep your friends close and your enemies closer.

#### A TRIBUTE TO SAM EVANS

#### HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor a great Philadelphian and a great American, the late Sam Evans.

He had firsthand experience as a victim of oppression. His mother was born before abolition, and he witnessed five lynchings before